

**STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (STAAR) ACT  
RATIONALE FOR ESTABLISHING THE “ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE  
AND RESEARCH NETWORK (ARSRN)”**

*MAY 13, 2009*

**The Strategies To Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act would establish the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance and Research Network (ARSRN)—a network of ten or more sites intended to hasten progress on the understanding and control of antibiotic resistance.** ARSRN sites would be strategically distributed throughout the nation, and would bring together experts on surveillance, prevention, and research. This regional resistance surveillance arrangement will enable earlier discovery and reporting of problems and speed the translation of these surveillance findings into research and prevention projects. The network would work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and may include academic centers and other sites that receive federal funds. Efforts to identify and control the spread of newly identified resistant bacteria would progress rapidly and efficiently, protecting people from deadly infections caused by resistant organisms.

**“Sentinel” Surveillance. The STAAR Act would help CDC to identify new resistance patterns as they emerge, and also monitor key pathogens over time.**

• **Detecting new resistant patterns: The outbreak context**

*Early warning.* The ARSRN sites would detect early signs of resistance and report these to the CDC, thus triggering further research and directed surveillance.

*Directed surveillance.* Once CDC has initial reports of a resistance problem, ARSRN sites would conduct surveillance to determine the extent of the problem in various regions, describing the microbiology and epidemiology of the organism.

• **Targeted surveillance of key pathogens at lower cost.** The ARSRN system would be used to monitor and detect trends in resistance of key pathogens over time.

**Prevention Research. The STAAR Act will improve the capacity to carefully and quickly evaluate novel interventions to prevent the emergence and transmission of antibiotic resistance.** ARSRN sites will provide CDC with qualified locales for the development, testing and implementation of novel control strategies.

**Basic and Clinical Research. The STAAR Act will direct this network to function as a “clinical research network.”** ARSRN sites will pursue basic and clinical research. They will engage in molecular studies to understand emerging patterns and serve as primary locations for testing antimicrobial dosing strategies designed to lessen resistance and improve our knowledge of infectious diseases. Once developed, the ARSRN sites will be an ideal infrastructure to promote testing of novel antimicrobial agents developed by industry or through government-industry collaborations. NIH has used similar networks to successfully study HIV/AIDS, vaccines, and other scientific matters requiring rapid, multi-pronged study of complex and urgent issues.

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